

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

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FOR D/HA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, ICEM
SUBJECT: NEW PROGRAM FOR BOAT REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ICEM DIRECTOR JOHN
THOMAS TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

QUOTE

HAVING BEEN INFORMED OF CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS IN HONG KONG
WHICH ARE TO BE FOLLOWED BY FORMAL UNHCR/HK GOVT NEGOTIATIONS, AND
OF DISCUSSIONS IN BANGKOK ON THE PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING OF BOAT
CASES THROUGH HONG KONG, ICEM HOPES THE FOLLOWING POINTS MIGHT BE
CLARIFIED:

ONE - ICEM HAS EXTENDED THE SERVICES OF DR KARAUJNIK IN BANGKOK
THROUGH END FEBRUARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HIS CONTINUING THE MEDICAL
ARRANGEMENTS APPLIED IN 1976 FOR THE EPP PROGRAMME, IF THESE ARE
DESIRED STOP IF HE IS TO REMAIN LONGER WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY
TO REQUEST THAT THE UNITED STATES COVER TWO THIRDS OF HIS SALARY AND
PER DIEM THE OTHER THIRD BEING RECOVERABLE BY ICEM FROM SERVICE
CHARGES TO UNHCR OR OTHER GOVT SUCH AS GERMANY STOP THIS DIVISION
IS RELATED TO ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD AND IT IS POINTED OUT THAT FOR
FRANCE MEDEXAMS ARE PERFORMED ONLY FOR THE SPECIAL SCHEME FOR
THAIDAM OR OTHER MONTAGNARDS STOP

TWO - TO DATE ICEM HAS RECEIVED AUTHORITY TO WITHDRAW FROM USG LOAN
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FUND ACCOUNT NO 5 ONLY DLLRS 337,392 STOP THIS AMOUNT WILL HAVE
BEEN EXHAUSTED BY MOVEMENTS THROUGH APPROXIMATELY 15 FEBRUARY AND
A FURTHER AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED STOP
THREE - ICEM PLANNING FOR 1977 WAS BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING
THAT THE US WOULD ACCEPT 100 PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS PER MONTH UNDER
CONDITIONAL ENTRY PLUS THEIR DEPENDENTS RECEIVING NON-PREFERENCE
VISAS STOP IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO BOAT

CASES BUT OTHER HUMANITARIAN CASES COULD BE CONSIDERED STOP
THEREFORE ICEM ASSUMED 1200 CASES WITH AN AVERAGE OF 4 PERSONS PER
CASE OR A TOTAL MOVEMENT OF 4,800 PERSONS STOP HOWEVER, FROM
DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA IT APPEARS THAT THE PROGRAMME SHOULD BE
PLANNED FOR ONLY 2,000 PERSONS BEING BASED ON THE PRESENTLY REPORTED
2,300 PERSONS WHO ARE BOAT CASES AND NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY NEW
BOAT ARRIVALS OR ANY HUMANITARIAN CASES STOP AS INDICATED BELOW
ICEM CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE TO MAINTAIN PLANNING FOR 4,800 PERSONS,
BUT IF THIS IS INCORRECT ANY COSTS MENTIONED LATER SHOULD BE
ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY STOP

FOUR - ICEM UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS TO PAY FOR MEDEXAMINATION COSTS
IN BANGKOK OR ELSEWHERE, PHOTOGRAPHS, VISA FEES, TRANSPORTATION
TO AN AIRPORT OR TO A PROCESSING CENTRE IF NOT COVERED BY LOCAL
SOURCES OR UNHCR STOP IF THIS IS CORRECT CAN AUTHORITY BE GIVEN
FOR ICEM TO WITHDRAW SUCH COSTS FROM USG ACCT NO 5 STOP

FIVE - IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ICEM IS TO BOOK CASES TO FINAL
DESTINATIONS IN THE USA STOP COULD CONFIRMATION OF THIS BE
RECEIVED STOP

SIX - IN RELATION TO POINTS TWO TO FIVE ABOVE ICEM ESTIMATES A TOTAL
REQUIREMENT OF USD 2,310,000 IN 1977, USD 2,160,000 BEING REQUIRED
FOR TRANSPORTATION, DIRECTLY RELATED COST AND SERVICE FEE FOR
4,800 PERSONS AT A PER CAPITA COST OF USD 450 PLUS AN AMOUNT OF USD
150,000 FOR OTHER COSTS SUCH AS VISA FEES STOP PLEASE NOTE THAT
THE TRANSPORTATION COST FOR 1977 IS ESTIMATED TO BE HIGHER THAN IN
1976 MAINLY BECAUSE EXTRA COSTS WILL BE INVOLVED IN BRINGING
PERSONS INTO HONG KONG RATHER THAN ARRANGING THEIR DIRECT MOVEMENT
TO THE UNITED STATES STOP

SEVEN - PLEASE NOTE THAT IN MID-DECEMBER ICEM ESTIMATED THERE WOULD
BE AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF SOME 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS REMAINING FROM
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THE NEARLY 8.6 MILLION SET ASIDE IN MR STEIN'S LETTER OF 30 JUNE
1976 CONCERNING THE EPP PROGRAMME, AND WHICH COULD BE TRANSFERRED
TO ACCT NO 5 STOP SINCE THAT TIME AN AMOUNT OF DLLRS 357,000 WAS
WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGREEMENT OF 25/30 JUNE 1976 AND AS PER TWO ABOVE
DLLRS 337,392 WAS TRANSFERRED TO ACCOUNT NO 5 STOP FURTHERMORE
DURING JANUARY 1977 THERE WERE 105 PERSONS MOVED WITHOUT
PROVVISORY NOTES WHO WERE RESIDUAL EPP OR OTHER PRIOR 30 JUNE
APPROVED CASES AND THEREFORE WE CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE TO SET
ASIDE A CONTINGENCY OBLIGATION OF SOME DLLRS 150,000 TO COVER THESE
AND SUCH OTHER CASES AS MAY REQUIRE MOVEMENT IN 1977 STOP
CONSEQUENTLY, AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AN ADDITIONAL
DLLRS 650,000 IS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT A U.S. PROGRAMME FOR 4,800
PERSONS IN 1977 STOP HOWEVER, AS ICEM ACCOUNTS FOR 1977 8)) ?3
CLOSED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY WE SHALL REVERT WITH THE PRECISE FIGURE

FOR THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE STOP
IN THE MEANTIME WE HOPE FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE PRECEDING
POINTS AND DECISIONS COVERING ONE AND TWO - JOHN F. THOMAS.
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